

Remarks:

This application has been reviewed carefully in light of the Office Action mailed August 21, 2007. In the Office Action, the declaration was found defective. The drawings were objected to as not including a
5 reference number mentioned in the description. The specification was objected to due to two informalities. The abstract was required to be presented on a separate sheet. Claims 4-15 were objected to as having multiple dependent claims depending from one another. Claims 1-2, 3/1 and 3/2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being
10 indefinite. Claims 1-2, 3/1 and 3/2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Japanese Patent 5-106-598. Claims 1 and 3/1 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by United Kingdom Patent 636,290. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Yoshinaga, U.S. patent no. 4,395,197.

15 The above-described objections and rejections are addressed as follows.

I. Requirement for New Declaration

A proper Declaration has been separately filed on August 23, 2007. The applicant respectfully requests the new declaration be found
20 acceptable.

II. Objection to the Drawings

The specification has been amended to overcome the objection to the drawings. The applicant respectfully requests the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

III. Requirement for New Abstract of the Disclosure

The abstract of the disclosure has now been presented on a separate page, and rewritten to be in better form. The applicant respectfully requests the new abstract of the disclosure be found acceptable.

5 IV. Objection to the Disclosure

The disclosure has now been amended to eliminate the identified informalities. The applicant respectfully requests the objections to the disclosure be withdrawn.

V. Claim Objections

10 The claims have now been amended to eliminate the identified informalities. The applicant respectfully requests the objections to the claims be withdrawn, and that the claims now be examined.

VI. § 112 Rejection

15 Claims 1, 2, 3/1 and 3/2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as allegedly being indefinite. The claims have now been amended to correct the identified issues. The applicant respectfully requests the rejections of claims 1, 2, 3/1 and 3/2, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, be withdrawn.

VII. § 102(b) Rejections

20 Claims 1, 2, 3/1 and 3/2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by various references. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that in cross-section the shroud forms a surface along the flow path, the surface being characterized by a profile that includes a relative discontinuity **in the region of the trailing edge**. The claim further

recites that the discontinuity forms a **downstream-facing** blocking face adapted to impede an upstream flow of gas between the shroud and the wheel, the blocking face extending across the flow path to form a **sharp edge connecting the blocking face to a smoothly curving surface**
5 **upstream of the discontinuity.**

This feature provides for significant resistance to upstream flow, and thus increases the range over which the compressor can operate. None of the cited references provide downstream-facing surfaces at the trailing edge, where the surfaces have sharply discontinuous edges connecting the
10 discontinuities to surfaces upstream of the discontinuities.

Because the cited references fail to disclose the features of claim 1, as amended, the applicant respectfully requests the § 102(b) rejections of claims 1, 2, 3/1 and 3/2 be withdrawn.

VIII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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